Pipeline projects of GAIL

† 918. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of increasing consumption of Gas in the country, Public sector gas company, the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) have decided to lay four pipelines immediately;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the cost estimated for laying the pipelines?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The major gas pipeline projects under implementation by GAIL are as follows:—

(Rs. in crore)

SI.No.	Project Name	Length of pipeline in Kms.	Approved cost
1.	Dahej-Uran pipeline	475	18.30.77
2.	Thulendi-Phulpur pipeline	139	220.00
3.	Vijaipur-Kota pipeline	192	299.84
4.	Jagoti-Dewas-Pithampur pipeline	185	194.82
5.	Kelaras-malanpur pipeline	95	104.73

Agreement in supply of Ethanol blended Petrol

919. SHRIMATI N.P DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil retailing firms and the Indian Sugar Mills Association are going to sign an agreement for supply of ethanol-blended petrol in some of the States;

(b) if so, the details of the States to which Government are going to supply ethanol-blended petrol; and

(c) the total ethanol produced in the country in the last three years, year-wise?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) In a meeting convened between the representatives of the oil marketing companies and the ethanol industry on 16.3.2005, it was *inter-alia* indicated that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) could be signed between the oil marketing companies and the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) for sustained supply of ethanol at reasonable prices.

(b) The States notified for supply of ethanol-blended petrol in terms of Gazette Notification No. GSR 705(E) dated 27.10.2004, are Maharashtra, Gujarat,- Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh (All districts except Chittoor & Nellore) and Tamil Nadu (only in Coimbatore, Dindigul, Erode, Kanayakumari, Nilgiris, Ramanathpuram, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin & Virudhunagar) and the Union territories of Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Chandigarh.

(c) Since molasses, a derivative of sugar used for the manufacture of ethanol, is a decontrolled item and ethanol manufacturing is a de-licensed activity, no data is being maintained regarding the production of ethanol.

Subsidy for diesel for agricultural sector

920. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of petroleum products have been hiked steeply even after the assurance made by Government not to increase the prices;

(b) whether the price of diesel has also been hiked;

(c) whether Government have announced any subsidy for diesel for agricultural use; and

(d) if so, the justification for price increase and not giving subsidy for diesel for agricultural use?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Considering the. impact of spiraling international oil prices, changes in the duty structure and quality upgradation of fuels, the Government, keeping in view the interest of the consumers, have limited the increase in petrol and diesel to Rs.2.50/litre and Rs.2.00/ litre respectively at Delhi with effect from the midnight of 20th/21st June 2005 with corresponding increase in other States/UTs.